Dayton, O. Aug. 21st
1864

Dear Aunt Mary,

Mother does not seem able to write, and my hand too trembles at what has become an unwonted task since dear Ones have gone; yet we are anxious to hear again from you concerning Edward. We hope you will give us the earliest intelligence of him and pray that it may relieve us of all fears for his safety.

Mother thinks he must have taken refuge with the Doctor's relations, stranger cases of disappearance have been on record, and it does seem as if there was ground for hope.

We are more of us feeling well. Father wills down beneath
The combined shocks of heat and deep sorrow, from the death of the three of my lady and my own, Mary has returned with her and she, she was well while gone, but now she did come both sick. Mother in her anxiety for mother and Mary have been great sorrow, but I know to well that it will take years to even soften this thing, truly strong! I felt at one time that with my three little children, and second and Mary, I might get along if, but now that that hope is taken from me, and now but and the same around me, it will be a rude task to regain this cheerliness that might be surround little children.

I do not give up, but am determined to try hard for it, remembering Luther’s advice to love one, do so, and towards last message. "Poe dear Jos, ther